

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-03 SP-02 SSO-00
NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 /038 W
-----151931Z 094442 /42 S

O R 151743Z APR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2910
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2220

LIMDIS

EO11652 GDS
TAGS PFOR NATO
SUBJECT APRIL 15 NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING: LUNS TRIP TO US

REF STATE 75291 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON APRIL 15, LUNS REPORTED BRIEFLY TO PERMREPS ON HIS US VISIT AND POSSIBLE US PROPOSALS TO ENHANCE THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO. ALLIES EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF US PROPOSALS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT DISCUSSION WOULD BE FOCUSED IN THE COUNCIL RATHER THAN CARRIED ON BILATERALLY THROUGH ALLIED EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON. GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED IN PARA 9. EMD SUMMARY

1. AT THE APRIL 15 NAC, SYG LUNS BRIEFLY OUTLINED THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT LATER AT GREATER LENGTH, BUT HE WANTED TO INFORM THE PERMREPS IMMEDIATELY OF THOSE ASPECTS THAT BORE ON THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE AT THE NATO SUMMIT IN LONDON ON MAY 10. HE ALSO WANTED THEM TO BE AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD PROPOSE INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN NATO POLITICAL AND MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS.

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2. THE SYG DESCRIBED HIS VISIT AND RECEPTION IN THE US IN GLOWING TERMS. HE EXPRESSED GREAT THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT NATO QUESTIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE, AS WELL AS MESSRS. BRZEZINSKI, WARNKE, COSTLE AND OWEN.

3. LUNS SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED THE US INTENTION TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE NATO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, INCLUDING SPECIAL NAC CONSULTATIONS WITH SENIOR-LEVEL US OFFICIALS. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT OTHER ALLIES WOULD TAKE SIMILAR

INITIATIVES AS WELL.

4. ON THE NATO SUMMIT, LUNS SAID THE PRESIDENT IS CONSIDERING IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO AND MAY MAKE CERTAIN SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN LONDON. LUNS INDICATED US INTEREST IN A STUDY (POSSIBLY WITH ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE NATO) ON WAYS TO IMPROVE NATO FORCES IN THE COMING DECADE, INCLUDING IMPROVEMENTS IN DEFENSE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION, WITH A VIEW TOWARD PREPARING A REPORT FOR THE MAY 1978 MINISTERIAL. LUNS MENTIONED FURTHER THAT THE US WAS INTERESTED IN STUDYING HOW TO MANAGE THE DEVELOPMENT, PROCUREMENT, STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT ON AN ALLIANCE-WIDE BASIS. LUNS SAID ANOTHER PROPOSAL CONCERNED AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF EAST-WEST ISSUES BY THE COUNCIL, THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, AND SELECT EXPERTS.

5. DESCRIBING THESE PROPOSALS AS TANGIBLE PROOF OF THE COMMITMENT OF THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ADMINISTRATION TO A STRONG AND MORE EFFECTIVE ALLIANCE, LUNS STRESSED THAT THESE PROPOSALS WERE STILL TENTATIVE AND SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE CONTACTING ALLIED EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON TO ELABORATE THESE PROPOSALS IN GREATER DETAIL. LUNS INDICATED HIS STRONG FEELING THAT THE COUNCIL AND THE DPC SHOULD BE THE FOCAL POINTS FOR CONSULTATION ON THESE ISSUES.

6. LUNS SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD INDICATED HE WOULD ATTEND THE NATO MEETING ONLY ON MAY 10 AND WOULD LEAVE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AFTERNOON SESSION. THE PRESIDENT EXPECTS TO MAKE A BRIEF BUT SUBSTANTIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERVENTION, AND HOPED THAT OTHER ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER A "REAL REACTION" TO HIS REMARKS. WASHINGTON HOPES THAT THE ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES WILL LIMIT THEIR FORMAL REMARKS TO 10 OR 15 MINUTES, AND SUGGESTS THAT THE ATTENDEES SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS FOR LUNCHEON ON THE FIRST DAY: ONE LUNCHEON GROUP BEING THE SYG, THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND THEIR NOTETAKERS; THE OTHER BEING THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, PERMREPS AND OTHER HIGH-RANKING ATTENDEES.

7. THANKING LUNS FOR HIS REPORT, KILLICK (UK) SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO HAVE AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE ON WHAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT PROPOSE IN LONDON IN ORDER TO ENABLE ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A "GOOD" RESPONSE. CATALANO (ITALY) SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANY DISCUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION AND HOPED THE COUNCIL WOULD GET FURTHER DETAILS SOON. HE ADDED THAT WHILE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO INFORM THE ALLIED AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON, ABOUT THESE PROPOSALS, SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS MUST TAKE PLACE AT NATO.

8. COMMENT: THE MENTION OF POSSIBLE NEW US INITIATIVES BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE SUMMIT OBVIOUSLY SURPRISED MANY PERMREPS. THEY ARE NOW ANXIOUS FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION AND SEEMED CONCERNED THAT THE US WILL BE CONSULTING INITIALLY WITH ALLIED EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO INFORM THE

ALLIES HERE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE ABOUT OUR CURRENT THINKING AND TO SHIFT THE FOCUS OF ALLIED DISCUSSION OF US PROPOSALS TO THE NAC AND DPC. THE SOONER WE CAN DO THIS, THE BETTER PREPARED THE ALLIED HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL BE TO RESPOND ON AN INFORMED BASIS TO THE PRESIDENT'S INTERVENTION IN LONDON. END COMMENT.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE THIS SUBJECT IS LIKELY TO ARISE AT THE APRIL 19 PERMREP LUNCH, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE BY COB APRIL 18 AS TO WHEN WE MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO BRIEF THE ALLIES IN GREATER DETAIL ON THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS. STRAUZ-HUPE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISBRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - MR. MACFARLANE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO02220
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704102/baaabczk.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2666150
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040809
Subject: SUBJECT APRIL 15 NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING: LUNS TRIP TO US
TAGS: PFOR
To: STATE SECDEF MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68f9b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009